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SUBJECT: Communist China Imports Large Number of Japanese Documents

SOURCE: Tokyo Shimbun, 26 Jan 60, Tokyo

A. Conclusion:

Communist China procures more publications from Japan than from any other country except the USSR. Many of the books are technical in nature which indicates that Communist China rates Japanese science and techniques very high. There are possibilities that the scientific and technical relations between Japan and Communist China will be further expanded in the future because of these facts.

B. Information:

Communist China's imports and translations of Japanese documents are as follows:

1. Imports (Unit: million yen)

1956	Apxx 200
1957	Apxx 180
1958	Apxx 100
1959	Apxx 160
1960	Apxx 200 (estimate)

Note: Japan exports yearly a total of approximately 1,500 million yen worth of publications to 30 countries.

The principal importers are, after Communist China, the United States, the Republic of Korea, and Brazil.

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each importing yearly about 150 million yen worth of Japanese documents. (Figures given by the Shuppan Bunka Kokusai Koryu Kai (Publishers' Association for Cultural Exchange), Tokyo.)

2. Nature of publications imported

Publications concerning science, such as medicine, engineering, and agriculture, are largest in number, literary publications are also imported. In 1958, Communist China drew up a 10-year plan for the translation of Japanese literature. The plan lists 200 books to be translated, ranging from such classics as the Manyoshu anthology to modern works including those by the so-called bourgeois writers.

3. Settlement of accounts

Payment for Japanese documents is made in British pounds. Since Communist China is not bound by the Bern Treaty which protects copyright, pirated versions are openly published.

4. Translation of foreign documents in Communist China

The number of Japanese books translated in Communist China is second only to Soviet publications. Few US, British, and French books have been translated.

5. Chinese Communist Organ for importing periodicals

The state-operated Kuo-chi Bookstore is the sole agency for importing foreign publications.

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C. Discussion of the facts:

1. Volume of Japanese documents imported by Communist China

It is quite natural that Soviet publications should occupy the greater part of foreign documents imported by Communist China. The reasons for Japanese publications being so overwhelmingly in second place are less obvious.

In terms of the volume of publications exported by Japan, exports to the United States, the Republic of Korea, and Brazil do not appear to fall too far behind those to Communist China. However, when the large quantity of so-called pirated versions is taken into account, exports to Communist China must be given an even greater edge. That Japanese publications are imported in such a large quantity by Communist China indicates, perhaps, the Communist Chinese people's liking for Japanese works, but it more emphatically reflects the intention of the Chinese Communist Party and Government. This is also clear from the fact that foreign publications are imported solely through the state-operated bookstore.

2. Kinds of Japanese publications imported

a. That scientific literature constitutes the greater part of Japanese publications imported is presumably indicative of Communist China's interest in science and her eagerness to absorb it. In view of Communist China's growing efforts toward scientific and technical advancement, exchange in this field between Communist China and Japan will probably become more and more frequent in the future.

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b. The source article fails to mention to what extent Japanese works on military, politics, sociology, and economy are imported by Communist China. The presumption can be made that Communist China does not allow these works to be put on the market on the ground that it would be politically harmful for the people in general to read literature of this nature. Since, however, it is safely deducible from the foregoing information that Communist China is extremely eager to expand its knowledge of Japan, it is considered very likely that Japanese publications on these subjects are used in volume by Communist Chinese intelligence analysts.

D. FC & C Br Comment:

1. The fact that Communist China imports a large volume of publications from Japan, which she brands as a bourgeois state, and that the imported documents include classical literature, modern novels, and works by bourgeois writers is of considerable interest. Knowing the extent to which these are translated and made available to the general public would be even more interesting.

2. A relatively large number of Japanese works on politics and sociology are tinged with a pro-Communist color. These works often fail to represent the true opinion of the Japanese people. The numerous occasions where Communist China's judgement on the political and social situation in Japan appeared too optimistic may be attributed in part to erroneous judgement based on study of these writings.

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3. That Communist China shows scarcely less interest in Japanese science and techniques, especially agriculture, engineering, and medicine, than in those of the Soviet Union is partly because there are many in Communist China who once studied in Japan, but is largely because Communist Chinese technicians and scholars have great confidence in Japanese science. Their influence is considered to be far-reaching.